

Brooke Wilson
The Pacific Resource Partnership

County Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Budget
Councilmember Ann H. Kobayashi, Chair
Councilmember Joey Manahan, Vice Chair

Bill 10 (2015) Relating to Car Sharing

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Council Chambers

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Aloha Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Manahan and members of the Committee:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.

Car-sharing programs have very real benefits for the communities in which they operate, and existing barriers to entry in Hawaii prevent residents of the Islands from realizing these benefits. This bill will make it economically feasible for the private sector to fill a need in the transportation market.

We believe there are significant environmental, economic and social benefits of providing housing for local families in compact, walkable, bikable, and transit-ready neighborhoods. Transportation options play a key role in creating a quality experience for residents in this type of community. Many residents will find they can get around easily by walking, biking, and using transit – both bus and rail – and taxis, making it less important to own a vehicle.

However, there are times when an automobile is needed, and car sharing is for people who occasionally need a car but don't want the expense and/or trouble of car ownership. Establishing a pilot program to test the utility of the public transit system to improve the mobility of Honolulu residents will help make this transportation option viable.

We support Bill 10 (2015) and respectfully request that this bill move it forward. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important initiative with you.

